
Governor-Elect W.D. Hoard Addresses Janesville Audience

Campaigns and elections are an integral part of our political narrative. In 1889, Fort Atkinson's own William Dempster Hoard was the Republican candidate for Wisconsin's Sixteenth Governor, running against Democrat James Morgan. Below is a newspaper clipping from the Janesville Gazette written shortly after he was voted into office. This news article, along with many others regarding this election, are housed in the Museum Archives in one of our many Hoard scrapbooks. I hope you enjoy a look back at what W.D. Hoard described as one of his "greatest achievements" of his life as we come to the end of our current election season.

—Dana Bertelsen, Assistant Director

From the Janesville Gazette

One of the most honorable personal triumphs to be found among the citizens of Wisconsin, is that which crowns the life of William D. Hoard, who has just been elected to the position of governor. He came directly from the people and his nomination was brought about by that class of persons known as the "masses", prominently among the farmers, who have received times almost without number, much valuable service from his extensive knowledge of the dairy interest. It is true that Mr. Hoard had two¹ very able competitors for the nomination—men of wide popularity and of great personal strength—but his candidacy attracted so much attention and created so much interest among the people to whom he had been a benefactor, that no combination could be successfully made against him.

Mr. Hoard will be with the people of Janesville this evening by special invitation to join with them in celebrating the greatest victory of the republican party. He



Governor W.D. Hoard

comes to us as an honored guest—a man whom the people delight to honor; and it is fitting and altogether proper that the Gazette should call to the minds of its readers a former visit that Mr. Hoard made to Janesville some fourteen years ago. He was invited to come to Janesville and to take part in a church entertainment, given, we think, at Apollo hall.

Mr. Hoard, to be truthful and plain about it, was the entertainment. The church gave him more to do than he expected or thought that he could do, but he did not shirk from duty neither did he cause the

wreck of the expectations of his friends in Janesville.

The entertainment was a success. He sang for the people, gave them a clever talk, told them some laughable stories, and otherwise interested them for more than an hour.

Mr. Hoard was then a very poor man. He was engaged in a desperate struggle for his daily bread. He had an invalid wife² to whom he was sacredly devoted.

He wanted her to have as comfortable home as possible, like a brave-hearted man, should; and after this Janesville entertainment was over, he was complimented for what he had done, and finally he said to a friend, with a manly spirit, but with a deep pathos that could be plainly read between the lines, "If I thought these entertainments would take reasonably well, I would



Agnes Elizabeth Hoard
W.D. Hoard's wife

prepare a sort of lecture, and give it in several places, and try to earn money enough *to buy my wife a carpet*, [italics in the original text] which she so much wants and needs."

Mr. Hoard did not prepare the lecture but he went to work with a strong arm and with a resolute courage, and soon bought the carpet. He kept working and hoping, and simply by dint of perseverance, and by making the best possible use of his strength, he gained a reputation, and performed that service for others, which made him governor of Wisconsin. He is a man of sterling integrity, of rare common sense, or rather of "uncommon" sense, and will give the people an administration marked by ability, economy, and wisdom.

1. Democrat James Morgan earned 44% of the popular vote and Prohibitionist E.G. Durant received 4.5%.

2. W.D. Hoard struggled as a young adult to find a career. He tried his hand at many jobs, from music instructor to traveling salesman and eventually found his calling as a newspaperman. His wife was ill in the early 1870s but lived a long life, dying at the age of 79 in 1919.



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Hours: Tuesday – Saturday
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Merrilee's Musings

By Merrilee Lee, Museum Director



“What did you do at work today?” is a fairly normal question asked in thousands of households around the country. Some of my recent answers to this question are: “Led walking tours from the Farmer’s Market;” “Explained the Black Hawk War to the 4th graders from a local elementary school when they visited the museum;” and my current favorite, “Held in my hand a found-that-day 10,000+ year old arrowhead that hadn’t seen the light of day in millennia.” For my husband who is asking this question and who works for a local bank, my answers and work-day are extremely different from his experiences. He’s a good sport and doesn’t mind when I start on about the history of particular buildings, Native American history and its importance, why understanding the Black Hawk War is vital to understanding local and regional history, etc. or anything else that I start to expound on. When you work in a museum that tells thousands of years of history, you have interesting responses.

But that’s the beauty of our local history and the stories that our museum tells because we aren’t confined to one story, one era, or one part of history. And we’ve been working on ensuring that it is our history. The walking tours are part of a recent out-reach program at the Fort Atkinson Farmer’s Market to help people appreciate the history that is all around us, and the importance of preserving it. The arrowhead is from the dedicated archaeologists still looking for Fort Koshkonong (Look for an update in a future newsletter!). The students, well, that’s my favorite part. Sharing our local history with our local children is the best way to ensure that our work – what we are working to preserve, protect, and promote – will continue to be valued and seen as essential to our community.

Improving awareness of the museum and strengthening our outreach are part of the recent strategic plan that the Fort Atkinson Historical Society has been developing. Look for more on this in future newsletters too!

We, as always, are grateful for your continued support of the Museum and Historical Society. All that we do is due to you. Thank you very much!

Merrilee

New Exhibit Work

Mary Gates Memorial Wall

If you have walked behind the Museum on Foster Street in the last month, you may have noticed that the team from Bella Construction has been busy erecting a field stone wall north of the Foster House. This September, construction began on the **Mary Gates Memorial Wall**. **Mary's daughters, Ann Lueder and Jane Gates Fossum, and family friend, Ann Engelman, all believed that the wall was a fitting tribute to the life and work of Mary Gates. Mary was the director of the Dwight Foster Library, a Museum board member, a member of the Fort Atkinson Historical Society, and Museum volunteer. The wall was funded by memorial funds given to the Museum and by matching grants from the Fort Community Foundation. Thank you to all who gave in Mary's memory and we look forward to enjoying our new wall for decades to come.**



If you would like to make a memorial donation in honor of a loved one to the Museum, please contact Merrilee Lee.

Jones Dairy Farm Exhibit

The Museum partnered with Jones Dairy Farm to develop a temporary exhibit featuring **the history of their business. The exhibit displays artifacts from both the Museum's collection and Jones Dairy Farm and is positioned near the Museum's main entrance. It will be on display through Saturday, November 12.**

This exhibit was one of the benefit that Jones Dairy Farm receives as a Business Patron of the Hoard Museum. Business Patron membership to the Museum is available at four different monetary levels. Each level offers opportunities within the Museum, some which include advertisement at events, members-only invitations, reduced rates, gift memberships, and an exhibit featuring the history of the business.



Contact Merrilee Lee if you and your business are interested in becoming a Business Patron of the Museum.

On the Homefront Exhibit

In collaboration with UW-Whitewater, the Hoard Museum participated in *On the Home Front: Families, Communities, and Conversations with Our Veterans*. **The Museum's temporary exhibit, "War and Peace: Echoes of Past Wars and Home Fronts" explored the wars that area residents have participated in and juxtaposes military artifacts and home front artifacts, including uniforms, letters, and journals. The exhibit was on display from October 8 through November 4.**



2016 Volunteer of the Year's Thoughts on Volunteering at the Museum

By Joe Slaney

As I remove my crown and pass it on to the next reigning Volunteer of the year, I just want to remind you of a few of the specialized tools we use as we volunteering at the Museum.

A seasonal tool, perhaps, but a sweater comes **in handy while you are sitting at the greeter's desk** when the cold winds are blowing. Any time of the year a sweater can be a comforting tool if you find yourself in a collections room. While you are in the collections room you might use a ladder to reach artifacts, perhaps a piece of art, on the upper shelf. A tape measure is important as you describe each object accurately. Clipboards and pencils are a must. More seasonal tools include gardening gloves, trowels, shovels, and muscle relaxant ointment for those volunteers who keep the museum grounds looking so beautiful. On the rare occasion you may use a show shovel.

A magnifying glass is useful, not because your eyes are failing, but the print can be mighty small when reading old newspapers or scanning family records. There are even times when you will use a computer, in a museum, of all places!

And of course, you will need gloves—lots of gloves—because you may be handling very valuable artifacts. The most valuable tools you use here, as in life, are your smile and positive attitude—the tools each of you display every time



you interact with our guests, the staff, and each other. As you can tell from this small sampling of tools you use here, volunteering at the museum is like retirement; there are so many possibilities, there is no room for boredom. If for any reason you are getting a little tired of the tasks you are doing, just talk to a staff member, and believe me, they will find another task destined to pique your interests.

I want to thank all of you for the many hours and varied tasks that you do here. I want to thank our dedicated, professional staff for their leadership. Together, as a team, we make this the great museum, the great local treasure that it is.

From the staff: Joe, thank you for your comments! We were all flattered and amused by your description of volunteering at the Museum and we're glad you are one of the "tools" in our toolbox!

2017 Volunteer of the Year

Mary Narkis



Congratulations to Mary Narkis, who was selected by staff to be the 2017 Volunteer of the Year! Criteria for nomination for the Volunteer of the year includes, but is not limited to, a volunteer who displays: reliability, a team-player attitude, flexibility, diversity of service, membership in the FA Historical Society, ability to follow directions, innovative, enthusiastic, ability to serve at short notice, and regularity of service.

Mary began volunteering in 2012, after retiring from the University Systems. It all began when volunteer Char Patefield invited our Volunteer Coordinator, Tammy Doellstedt, to a Volunteer Fair at the First Congregational Church. That is where Tammy met Mary, and the rest is history.

Mary brings joy to every room she enters. She is friendly and works well with others. Mary serves at the museum at least four times a month. She takes shifts at the greeter and archive desk, works twice a month as a collections volunteer, is a Foster House docent, and helps in the office. She has perfect attendance at our Volunteer Enrichment Programs for the last three years. When she is not at the museum, Mary spends time volunteering at her church, doing genealogical research, keeping up with her grandchildren, and spends time with her nonagenarian mother who lives in FairHaven. Mary and her husband Larry love to camp, and will be doing more of that in the near future. Mary, thanks for all you do here at the museum. We truly appreciate it!

2017 Volunteer Recognition Awards

On Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 100 museum volunteers and their guests enjoyed an Italian themed dinner hosted and prepared by museum staff. At the dinner Tammy Doellstedt, Volunteer Coordinator, announced the following Service Category Awards. Thanks to all of our volunteers who faithfully serve throughout the year and congratulations to the 2017 Award Winners!



Steve Zimmerman -Special Projects-Jack of All Trades

Steve has served in a variety of volunteer roles since 2012. Last year he logged 84 hours, which included pouring a concrete pad, building a compost bin for our gardeners to use, researching upgrades to our security system, and working on the grounds committee. He works efficiently behind the scenes, with enthusiasm and determination.

Amy Heine & Family and Deb Lundy & Family - Program Support – Dairy Day at the MOOseum



These two ladies were on the Dairy Day at the MOOseum committee and were **responsible for bring the “moo” to Dairy Day! They coordinated with the farmers who brought their cows to the event.** Deb and Amy also enlisted helpers from their 4H clubs to help with the event. Amy also found sponsors for the event. Both are hardworking, positive, and vital to the success of Dairy Day. They are also absolutely MOOverslous!



Brian and Josh Juarez-Program Support Civil War and Governor Hoard Day

This father and son duo started volunteering at the museum because Brian instilled a love in history in his son Josh. The Juarezes served on the committee to revamp our Governor Hoard Day and contacted the 2nd Wisconsin, Co. K reenactors, of which Josh is a member, to participate in our event. They both work as greeters and Josh serves as a docent in the Foster House, too. Both are enthusiastic, supportive, and optimistic!



Dianne Bowker -Garden Volunteer



Dianne is a Jefferson County Master Gardener and began volunteering at the museum in the Spring of 2015. Dianne oversees the care of the Front Entry Garden and presented at the Garden Education Program in the spring on Kitchen Gardens. During the Fall Garden Tea, she produced and shared dozens of different types of yummy jams. Dianne, thanks for expanding our garden knowledge base, and making our gardens look great!

Wilbur Waggoner-Greeter Desk



Wilbur and his wife Jeanne moved to Wisconsin from Ohio to be closer to their grandchildren, and boy are we glad they did! Wilbur began volunteering at the Greeter Desk in September of 2013. He has a very natural, friendly way with all the visitors, from little kids to adults and makes every visitor feel welcomed and appreciated. Wilbur is also a docent in the Foster House. He has also assisted Greg with painting the Foster House, helped install the large Christmas Tree, and set up for art shows. We are so glad he spends time welcoming guests at the front Greeter Desk!

Russ Maki -Archive Assistant

Russ joined the museum volunteer family in March of 2014. Russ makes the drive in from Watertown twice a month to serve at the Archive Desk. Since he is a retired Milwaukee Journal reporter he has a special affinity for old newspapers and is always quick to share interesting articles with staff. Russ is also great at meticulously entering data which has helped both researchers and staff.



Taste of Fort Atkinson and Hops Fest

Friday, November 11, 5:30-8:30

This is the Museum's second year hosting our Taste of Fort Atkinson and Hops Fest benefit. Last year, the event was successful—we sold out of tickets and we were able to raise money to support programming at the Museum. The event also created a greater appreciation for local businesses and restaurants.

Festival Foods is sponsoring the "Hops Fest" by providing Wisconsin beer and wine. This year the grocery store is generously supplying wine from Prairie du Sac's Wollersheim Winery, and beer from Door County Brewery and Bent Kettle – Fort Atkinson's newest brewery. Festival Foods will also bring back the extremely popular cheese tasting. This year's tasting will feature cheese from Wood River Creamery out of Grantsburg, WI and Widmir Cheese from Teresa, WI.

The event will feature a variety of appetizers, entrée samples, and desserts from six local restaurants. Kitty and Bill of Café Carpe, Jake and Jaimie of Brock's Riverwalk, Mariah and Chef Shaun of Jones Market, Chef Eric of Mangiami Italiano, Erin of Paddy Coughlin's Irish Pub, and Joe of Salamone's Italian Pizzeria are supplying delicious food from their kitchens for you to taste.

You can buy tickets at the Museum or at Festival Foods in Fort Atkinson. Tickets are \$40 per person.

In honor of Veterans Day, active or retired military personnel tickets are \$30 per person.

Call the Museum to purchase your tickets today!



Mornings @ the Museum

In January 2016, the Museum launched a new program for preschoolers and their families. The Museum has opened early at 8:30 a.m. on the second Friday of the month during the school year for preschoolers (and their parents, grandparents, or teachers) to come and explore the museum at their own pace. Each program features a special activity and snacks for children and coffee for adults.

November's Morning at the Museum will be on 11/11. In honor of Veterans Day, the special project will be to color holiday cards for deployed soldiers. The December 9th program will be decorating and frosting holiday cookies.

In 2017, Mornings @ the Museum will move to the first Friday of the month from January - May, and September - December. It will still start at 8:30 a.m.!



Upcoming Events at the Hoard Museum

Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 10, 1-4 p.m.

Come to the Hoard Historical Museum and join the festive fun during our annual Holiday Open House. The event is free and open to the public.



Interactive activities include children's holiday crafts and the opportunity to build your own gingerbread house out of graham crackers and candy. While you're here you may enjoy holiday treats baked by the Museum's volunteer bakers, admire our holiday decorations, take in an exhibit on vintage cookbooks from the Museum Collection, hum along to holiday music, and vote in our Annual Gingerbread House Contest's People's Choice Award for your favorite creation. At 2:00, the winners of the Gingerbread Village Contest will be presented as well as the winner of the People's Choice category.

The Third Annual Gingerbread House contest is open to artists and bakers from around the region. This year's contest theme is local landmarks. Construct your favorite house, business, or structure out of gingerbread. Don't have a favorite landmark or would prefer to create your own design? You do not need to participate in the theme to enter the contest. Stop by the Museum or go to our website (www.hoardmuseum.org) to get your registration form.



Gingerbread House Competition Important Dates:

Registration is from Tuesday, November 29th – Thursday, December 1st

Houses are on display from Saturday, December 3rd – Saturday, December 17th

Saturday Morning Scholars

Saturday, November 19, 11 a.m. *Rosemaling 101*

Rosemaling is a traditional Norwegian style of decorative painting. Local rosemaling instructor Karen Syens will present on the history of the artistic and regional styles, the arts connection to Wisconsin, and demonstrate traditional techniques.

Saturday Morning Scholars programs are family friendly and all ages are welcome to attend. Saturday Morning Scholars is a FREE program. The first Saturday Morning Scholars program in 2017 will be on Saturday, February 4, 2017!



Garden Education Program

Saturday, November 19, 2 p.m. *Garden Art*

Learn about garden art of the past and see what types of garden art are popular now. Our Master Gardener Volunteers will each bring in samples of their own work and walk you through the necessary steps to create your own! We will also preview 2017 programs. As usual, this program is free of charge, although donations are gratefully accepted.



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Upcoming Events at the Hoard Museum:

- November 6: ♦ Annual Black Hawk Artists Show Opening, 1-4 p.m. *show runs through 11/18*
- November 11: ♦ Morning @ the Museum preschool program, 8:30 a.m.
♦ Taste of Fort and Hops Fest 6:30-8:30 p.m. *Call the Museum to purchase tickets!!*
- November 19: ♦ Saturday Morning Scholars, Rosemaling 101, 11 a.m.
♦ Garden Education Program, Garden Art, 2 p.m.
- November 23-25 ♦ Museum Closed for Thanksgiving, *Open on 11/26 during regular hours!*
- December 9: ♦ Morning @ the Museum Preschool program, 8:30 a.m.
- December 10: ♦ Holiday Open House, 1 - 4 p.m.
- December 23-26 ♦ Museum Closed for the holiday
- December 27-30 ♦ Museum Open!
- December 31 ♦ **Museum Closed for New Year's Eve**
- January 3-7 ♦ Museum Open! *January 9-23, Museum Closed for Maintenance-Office Open*
- January 6 ♦ Morning @ the Museum Preschool program, 8:30 a.m.

Questions? Contact the Hoard Historical Museum by calling (920) 563-7769 or emailing info@hoardmuseum.org